

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW DECISION MATRIX

TENNESSEE VERSION

February 2007

Reference the list of conservation practices that may be installed by NRCS in Tennessee on private and public lands and their corresponding “ground disturbing” designation for their potential to affect cultural resources.

“G” Ground Disturbing: Conservation practices with this designation have the potential to affect cultural resources, and as such will need a Cultural Resources Undertaking review completed before installation.

All practices with a designation of “G” will be documented on the TN-CPA-25 or similar approved form “Environmental Evaluation Worksheet”. A “Cultural Resources Undertaking Review Worksheet” will be submitted to the NRCS Cultural Resource Specialist. The request form can be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed and will be accompanied by:

1. A copy of the area on a 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle at a scale approximate to 1:24,000 with the farm boundaries clearly delineated.
2. A copy of the conservation plan map (ortho) at a scale approximate to 1:7920 clearly showing the location of all practices designated as “G” or “PG”.
3. Any pictures, drawings, or other readily available information that will facilitate a decision by the Cultural Resources Specialist.

An “Approval to Proceed” must be obtained from the Cultural Resources Specialist/Coordinator in writing to authorize project installation.

- Allow at least 30 days for approval or the decision to conduct field investigations.
- Allow an additional 60 days for field investigations to be completed.

“PG” Potential Ground Disturbing: Conservation practices with this designation have the potential to affect cultural resources if the installation exceeds the depth of previous cultivation, the area has not been previously cultivated, or other reasons as stated in the decision matrix. In these instances, a cultural resources review must be completed.

All practices with a designation of “PG” will be documented on the TN-CPA-25 or similar approved form “Environmental Evaluation Worksheet”.

- No further action is needed when the District Conservationist can certify “No effect”.
- A “Cultural Resources Undertaking Review Worksheet” will be submitted to the NRCS Cultural Resources Specialist/Coordinator when the decision tree indicates the District Conservationist cannot certify a decision of “No effect”. The request form can be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed and will be accompanied by:
 1. A copy of the area on a 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle at a scale approximate to 1:24,000 with the farm boundaries clearly delineated.

2. A copy of the conservation plan map (ortho) at a scale approximate to 1:7920 showing the location of all practices designated as “G” or “PG”.
3. Any pictures, drawings, or other readily available information that will facilitate a decision by the Cultural Resources Specialist.

An “Approval to Proceed” must be obtained from the Cultural Resources Specialist/Coordinator in writing to authorize project installation.

- Allow at least 30 days for approval or the decision to conduct field investigations.
- Allow an additional 60 days for field investigations to be completed.

“NG” Non-Ground Disturbing: These conservation practices do not have the potential to adversely affect cultural resources, and as such do not need a cultural resources review.

All practices with a designation of “NG” will be documented on the TN-CPA-25, “Environmental Evaluation Worksheet,” or similar approved form. No further action is needed.

EXEMPTION – Under the following exemption, no cultural resources reviews are required regardless of the category under which the conservation practice falls:

Consultation, advice, or technical assistance, including the development, review, and/or approval of conservation plans or technical designs when NRCS provides no financial assistance for their implementation or otherwise exercises no control over implementation. For example, design advice, practice standards, jobsheets, or other “public information” reference materials such as found in the Field Office Technical Guides or Conservation Practice Standards for a conservation practice that is installed independently by the producer with private funds and without direct technical assistance or site specifications provided by NRCS.